

Pope Leo urges unity for divided Church

Vows not to be 'autocrat' at inaugural mass

REUTERS, Vatican City

Pope Leo XIV formally began his reign yesterday by reaching out to conservatives who felt orphaned under his predecessor, calling for unity, vowing to preserve the Catholic Church's heritage and not rule like "an autocrat".



After a first ride in the popemobile before tens of thousands of people in St Peter's Square, Leo was formally installed as the 267th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church and sovereign monarch of Vatican City at an outdoor Mass.

Well-wishers in the crowd waved US and Peruvian flags, with people from both countries claiming him as the first pope from their nations.



A firefighter works at the site of a private enterprise hit by a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, outside of Kyiv yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia launches 'record' drone attack: Ukraine

REUTERS, Kyiv

The largest known Russian drone attack since full-scale war began in 2022 killed a woman in the Kyiv region and injured at least three people, Ukrainian authorities said early yesterday, as Moscow stepped up strikes following peace talks on Friday.

Russia launched 273 drones by 8:00 am local time (0500 GMT), targeting chiefly the central Kyiv region and the Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk

regions in the country's east, Ukraine's air force said.

Based on data provided by the air force, this was Russia's largest drone attack on Ukraine of the war. On the eve of the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 23, Moscow launched a then-record 267 drones.

The first direct talks in three years between Russia and Ukraine on Friday failed to broker the temporary ceasefire Kyiv and its allies have been

urging. The 100 minutes of talks in Istanbul yielded an agreement to trade 1,000 prisoners of war on each side.

US President Donald Trump said he would speak to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky today.

The sustained overnight Russian drone attack yesterday killed a 28-year-old woman in the capital region and injured at least three people, including a 4-year-old child, Ukrainian authorities said.

Israeli military intercepts missile from Yemen

Houthi target Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv

AFP, Jerusalem

The Israeli military said yesterday it had intercepted a missile fired from Yemen, where the Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed launching two missiles at Israel's main airport.

"A missile that was launched from Yemen was intercepted", the Israeli military said in a statement, adding that air raid sirens had sounded in several areas of the country.

The Houthi later said they had fired "two ballistic missiles" towards Israel's Ben Gurion airport, near Tel Aviv. The Iran-backed rebels have regularly fired missiles and drones at Israel since the war in Gaza broke out in October 2023.

Earlier this month, a Houthi missile struck the area of the Tel Aviv airport, gouging a hole near its main terminal building and wounding several people.

On Friday, Israel bombed the Houthi-held Red Sea ports of Hodeida and Salif following three missile attacks in as many days. It threatened to target the Houthi leadership if the attacks continued.

Pak FM to visit China on heels of conflict with India

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's foreign minister will make a three-day official visit to China, his office said yesterday, a little over a week after Islamabad reached a ceasefire with India to end their most serious conflict in decades.

Ishaq Dar will start his visit today in Beijing where he will hold "in-depth discussions" with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi "on the evolving regional situation in South Asia and its implications for peace and stability", his office said.

"The two sides will also review the entire spectrum of Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and global developments of mutual interest," it said.

Bomb kills one near California fertility clinic

FBI calls it 'terrorism'

REUTERS

A bomb exploded near a reproductive health facility in Palm Springs, California, on Saturday, killing one person and injuring at least four in an incident the FBI called an "intentional act of terrorism".

The authorities have a person of interest in the investigation and are not searching for a suspect, Akil Davis, assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, told reporters. He provided no further details.

The person killed was near a vehicle that had been blown to pieces outside the clinic, operated by American Reproductive Centers, Davis said.

Unease grips foreign ministry

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decision of removing foreign secretary.

"This is a bad precedent. You campaign against an official and then the government decides to remove him. If the government does not deal with such issues with a strong hand, the officials will not be confident about the leadership," an official said, "This will create a sense of mistrust within the colleagues and impact the functioning of the ministry."

Meanwhile, former ambassador Sufiur Rahman has yet to join the foreign ministry even after a month of his appointment as Chief Adviser's Special Assistant.

According to a circular

issued by the Cabinet Division on April 20, he will discharge his duties at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In line with the Rules of Business 1996, he has been vested with the executive authority in the ministry to assist the chief adviser.

Sufiur Rahman served as Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. Earlier, he served as Bangladesh's ambassador to both Australia and Myanmar. He also worked in various capacities in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India.

Asked about it, foreign ministry director general (admin) Abul Hasan Mridha told The Daily Star he received no information from the high-ups on that

matter.

Asked why he did not join the foreign ministry, Sufiur Rahman refused to comment.

A foreign ministry official said there are both opinions – for and against Sufiur Rahman's joining the foreign ministry.

Asked, former ambassador M Humayun Kabir said removal of a sitting foreign secretary is unprecedented, and there are both internal and external factors at play.

"We need to remember that we have never experienced the situation of August 5 and the events of pre and post August 5," he said.

After such events, societal expectation

changes and the government needs to act accordingly, he said.

"The ministry needs to act professionally and proactively, instead of being defensive and reactive," said Humayun Kabir, also president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute.

"We need to remember that we are in a turbulent world now. We are facing challenges in our relationship with our neighbouring countries. We need to maintain integrity," he said.

He suggested that the Chief Adviser's Office and the foreign ministry maintain strong coordination in the handling of external affairs as well as internal integrity.

Post-Brexit UK willing to 'align' with EU in some areas: minister

AFP, London

AUK minister said yesterday that the government could be willing to align with EU rules in some areas as opposition parties accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer of "surrender", ahead of landmark talks.

Starmer is set to sign a new deal with the European Union this week as he hosts the first post-Brexit EU-UK summit today.

The London gathering with EU chiefs is aimed at agreeing steps towards a closer relationship between Britain and the 27-country bloc that it left five years ago after an acrimonious referendum.

Details of any deal have remained vague, and Minister for European Union Relations Nick Thomas-Symonds told the BBC Sunday that they were still being worked out.

He said the Labour government was taking a practical approach "where it is in our national interest to align on common standards to make sure we get far easier trade, to mean that businesses... can start trading with the EU again".

Starmer has ruled out rejoining the customs union and single market but has suggested the UK is ready for regulatory alignment with the EU on food and agricultural products.

33 Bangladeshis sue Malaysian firm

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for quota approvals, levies, temporary work passes, health checks, and commissions for the job agents.

The workers realised only later that it was the responsibility of the employer to pay all these expenses.

They arrived in Malaysia in batches between June and October 2023.

The workers were asked to hand over their travel documents and passports

before being housed in dormitories in Kuala Lumpur.

They later learnt that the job offers were fake and they had to remain in the dorms, where they were given only basic necessities such as raw food to cook for themselves.

Eventually, the workers lodged a complaint with the migrant workers' rights group Tenaganita, which led to an investigation by the labour department.

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Reference No: 24.05.0000.548.05.001.25-48		Date: 18.05.2025	
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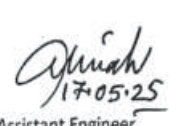


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01	1110117	19.05.2025	02.06.2025	03.06.2025	LTM
02	1110118	10:00 A.M	05:00 P.M	02:00 P.M	
03	1110119				
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